

Appendix A

Approved Watershed Management Plans

The basis of Michigan's Nonpoint Source (NPS) Program is watershed management; therefore the projects we fund through the Request for Proposals (RFP) process are to develop watershed management plans and to implement nonpoint source activities in plans we have approved. We require plans developed or implemented through our program to meet the federal and state guidance discussed below and referenced in the body of the RFP.

Watershed management planning has been described as more of an art than a science. While we require minimum standards and content be met, it is our hope that the plans produced through the Michigan NPS Program are above all appropriate to the watershed and easily usable by the watershed stakeholders.

Federal Guidance: The United States Environmental Protection Agency's (US EPA's) Nine Minimum Elements of Watershed Management Planning

To ensure that Section 319 projects make progress towards restoring waters impaired by nonpoint source pollution, watershed-based plans that are developed or implemented with Section 319 funds must include the nine minimum elements of watershed management planning. The US EPA believes that these nine elements are critical to assure that public funds are used effectively. The US EPA has developed a guidebook describing these elements and including information on how these elements can be met. The guidebook is available at: http://www.epa.gov/nps/watershed_handbook/

State Guidance: Clean Michigan Initiative (CMI) Administrative Rules on Watershed Management Planning

Administrative rules promulgated in October 1999 for the CMI Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Grants require Watershed Management Plans be approved by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). In addition, the rules require the DEQ to use CMI NPS funds to implement only DEQ-approved watershed management plans. The DEQ produced a guidebook for the development of watershed plans including the required elements and examples. The Guidebook is available at: <http://www.deq.state.mi.us/documents/deq-swq-nps-Watershe.pdf>

Required elements to meet both State and Federal Watershed Planning Guidance

- Watershed boundaries that are hydrologically based and delineated on a map.
- Description of the watershed inventory methods and results.
 - Hydrology
 - Geology
 - Major Water Bodies including wetlands
 - Soils
 - Ecology
 - Land Use
- Designated and desired uses of the watershed.
- Water quality impairments and threats.

- Sources and causes of the threats and impairments including a quantification or estimate of the magnitude of each source or cause and a prioritization of the sources and causes.
- Designation of critical areas (where the biggest “bang for the buck” will be realized from installing BMPs) and priority areas (the areas most in need of protection from a water quality stand point).
- Water quality improvement/protection goals, including restoring/protecting designated uses.
- Estimate of the load reduction needed to attain the water quality goal and/or estimate of the maximum allowable load to protect water quality.
- Description and prioritization of the tasks and activities that will need to be implemented to achieve the water quality goals and tied to the estimated loads.
- An assessment of local zoning/ordinances from a water quality perspective.
- Estimate by category of the amounts of technical and financial assistance needed, associated costs, and/or the sources and authorities that will be relied upon.
- Assessment of the benefits and costs of the actions.
- Description of the Information & Education component including targeted messages, audiences, and outreach methods.
- Schedule for implementing the described tasks and activities.
- Measurable interim milestones for progress on implementation efforts.
- Environmental criteria for evaluating the effectiveness of the plan and the resulting changes in water quality.
- Description of the monitoring component which should reflect the schedule for implementation, the measurable interim milestones, and the environmental criteria.